

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06533 041044Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 /046 W
-----041156Z 124258 /50

R 040924Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7472
INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII
AMCONSUL NAHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6533

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: OKINAWA LAND LAW

REF: TOKYO 4100

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS SCRAPPED PROPOSED OKINAWA LAND LAW IN FAVOR OF COMPROMISE SOLUTION INVOLVING FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CURRENT OKINAWA REVERSION TEMPORARY MEASURE LAW. GOVERNMENT SOURCES BELIEVE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL HAS 50-50 CHANCE FOR ENACTMENT BEFORE PRESENT LAW EXPIRES MAY 14. END SUMMARY.

1. COMPROMISE SOLUTION FOR RESOLVING OKINAWA LAND PROBLEM HAS FINALLY TAKEN SHAPE IN PAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO BOTH FONOFF AND JDA SOURCES, GOJ HAS DECIDED TO SCRAP ITS PROPOSED OKINAWA LAND LAW IN FAVOR OF COMPROMISE PACKAGE COMPOSED OF THREE ELEMENTS: (A) FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF OKINAWA REVERSION SPECIAL MEASURES LAW, WHICH OTHERWISE EXPIRES MAY 14; (B) ENACTMENT OF "BASIC LAW FOR RESOLVING OKINAWAN LAND TITLES"; AND (C) FINANCIAL COMPENSATION TO
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 06533 041044Z

OKINAWAN PREFECTURE.

2. "BASIC LAW" WILL BE GENERAL IN NATURE, REQUIRING GOJ TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING LAND TITLES BOTH ON-AND OFF-BASE IN OKINAWA. FONOFF EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH TIME TO DRAFT MORE DETAILED LEGISLATION. FINANCIAL PACKAGE WOULD BE DESIGNED TO

COMPENSATE PREFECTURE FOR COST OF LAND SURVEYS AND TO ASSIST IN PUTTING RELEASED BASE AREAS TO PRODUCTIVE USE.

3. ACCORDING TO FONOFF, OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO BROAD OUTLINE OF COMPROMISE PACKAGE, WITH REMAINING NEGOTIATIONS FOCUSED ON AMOUNT AND NATURE OF FINANCIAL COMPENSATION. GOJ HOPES TO RESOLVE REMAINING PROBLEMS IN TIME TO BRING PACKAGE TO VOTE IN LOWER HOUSE ON MAY 10 AND IN UPPER HOUSE ON MAY 12 OR 13.

4. BOTH JDA AND FONOFF OFFICIALS INVOLVED ARE ENCOURAGED BY MOVE TOWARD COMPROMISE BUT CAUTIOUSLY PREDICT NO MORE THAN 50-50 PROSPECT FOR ENACTMENT BEFORE MAY 15. THEY CONTINUE TO REASSURE US, HOWEVER, THAT US FORCES' INTERESTS WILL REMAIN SECURE EVEN IF PRESENT LAW LAPSES WITHOUT REPLACEMENT.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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